

Territories who have framed their own Animal Preservation Acts. In the specific incident mentioned in the question, the police authorities of Mathura District, have informed that some cows and calves were brought into Gurgaon District of Haryana from Rajasthan and illegally slaughtered. The remains of slaughtered animals were dumped in village Barwari Garhi, P.S. Kosi in forests of Mathura District of Uttar Pradesh. The incident was brought to the notice of the police authorities by the village Chief and a case was registered. The police authorities of Gurgaon District have also registered a case and action has been initiated against the culprits under the relevant law.

Introduction of genetically modified seeds

1371. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers are protesting against unfair trade system that has been forced on them by WTO;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the farmers want to ban introduction of genetically modified seeds in the country by multinational companies; and
- (c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to safeguard the farmers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There have been representations from a few organizations from different parts of the country alleging that unfair trade system has been forced by WTO.

(b) and (c) The subject of genetically modified seeds is under active debate worldwide. This technology has both pros and cons and its impacts are being evaluated by various agencies. In certain cases, genetically modified seeds are considered to be good for insect-pest resistance, improvement in nutritional quality traits, tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses, etc. However, at the same time, these seeds are required to be tested carefully before commercial exploitation, for Environment and bio-safety clearance under well

[3 August, 2001]

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defined protocols developed within the regulatory framework provided by the Environment Protection Act, 1986 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The regulatory procedure for safety of assessment of genetically modified seeds as provided in the Environment Protection Act, 1986, comprises a three-tier mechanism to assess and ensure bio-safety of genetic modifications, which include import, export, manufacture, sale and distribution of Genetically Modified food products in the country. Till date, no seed of any genetically modified variety has been cleared by the Government for commercialisation.

Development of horticulture and plantation crops

1372. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Schemes undertaken by the Government to provide opportunities for production and development of both horticulture and plantation crops to the growers;

(b) what are the specific plan schemes of each of the crops identified for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the expected production target for each crop during the current year crop-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government is providing assistance for the production of horticulture as well plantation crops like cashew and cocoa under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. Besides, the National Horticulture Board is providing assistance for cultivation and post harvest management under the scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Post Harvest Management. The Coconut Development Board is providing assistance to the farmers under their scheme on Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India. Moreover,